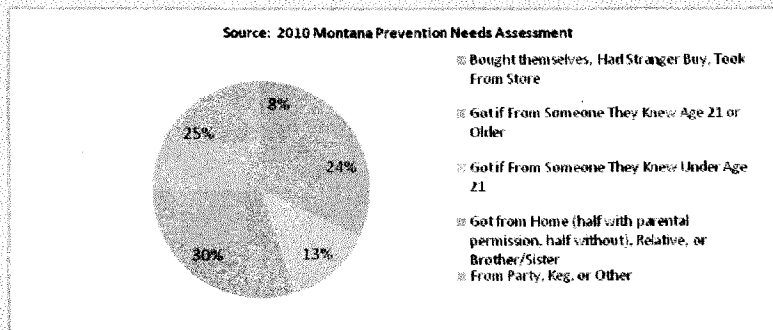


# BE IN THE KNOW

## It's easy to get drunk every weekend when you have friends with "cool parents"

### Question:

- ⇒ Why do Montana's teenagers binge drink more than most other kids in the nation?
- ⇒ Where do our teens get their alcohol?



### Solution:

- ⇒ Controlling access to alcohol is key to preventing underage drinking
- ⇒ Most young people in Montana access their alcohol from someone they know

**The evidence is clear: controlling access to alcohol is a critical factor in preventing our underage drinking epidemic and the expense and shame that goes with it**

Prevention experts have learned from years of research that laws and community norms have a large impact on teen use. If laws are not accepting, youth will be less likely to engage in the behavior; if they are permissive, teen alcohol and drug abuse will go up.

### Underage drinking facts

- Montana's teenagers binge drink more than most other kids in the nation<sup>1</sup>
- Montana has the highest rate of alcoholism among 18 to 25 year-olds in the nation<sup>2</sup>
- Alcohol-related crashes in Montana are highest among 21- to 24-year olds, and second highest among 18- to 20-year olds<sup>3</sup>
- Half of all multiple-DUI offenders were under 21 when they got their first conviction<sup>4</sup>

1. 2010 Montana Prevention Needs Assessment and 2010 Monitoring The Future  
 2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies  
 3. Overview of Montana's Impaired Driving Problem. Montana Department of Transportation. Downloaded May 2010 at [www.mdt.mt.gov/roads/impaired\\_driving\\_psa\\_overview.pdf](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/roads/impaired_driving_psa_overview.pdf)  
 4. Ibid. page 1.